Urban

May 13th. 1919.

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN, and MEMBERS of the Malmesbury, Urban District COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

On resigning my temporary Commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps in August 1918, Mr R.M.Moore rejoined the Army and you consented that I should Act as your Deputy Medical Officer of Health until his return.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for year

ending 31st December 1918.

May 13th. 1919.

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN, and MEMBERS of the Malmesbury, Urban District COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

On resigning my temporary Commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps in August 1918, Mr R.M.Moore rejoined the Army and you consented that I should Act as your Deputy Medical Officer of Health until his return.

HOUSING INSPECTION.

Owing to War conditions and scarcity of labour very little work was done under this heading.

No new houses have been built during the year.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library
https://archive.org/details/b29783331

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACTS 1889-1899

During the year 5 cases only were recorded- all Scarlet fever. It was possible to isolate these cases satisfactorily at their own homes.

No cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, crysipelas or small pox were notified.

The low number recorded is very satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH (OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM) REGULATIONS 1914.

ONE CASE ONLY WAS NOTIFIED.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES REGULATIONS 1915

Four cases only recorded a very satisfactory record for the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACTS 1889-1899

During the year 5 cases only were recorded- all Scarlet fever. It was possible to isolate these cases satisfactorily at their own homes.

No cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, erysipelas or small pox were notified.

The low number recorded is very satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH (OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM) REGULATIONS 1914.

ONE CASE ONLY WAS NOTIFIED.

MEASLES AND GERMAN MEASLES REGULATIONS 1915

Four cases only recorded a very satisfactory record for the year.

Some water this heading.

No new houses have been built during the year.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

There were two definite waves of influenza during the year. The First wave occurred in the Summer and was not of a serious or severe nature. The second wave started in the Borough about the first week in October and reached its maximum about the third week of November. It was over about the 10th of December although a few cases occured up to the end of the year. The vigorous adult population appeared to be the chosen sufferers though children were frequently attacked. Undoubtedly overcrowding, fatigue, lack of ventilation and insufficient food are the chief causes of spreading the disease. In many houses I regret to say the windows do not open and if they do open they only do so from the bottom. Top ventilation is practically unknown. The public show great ignorance in the matter of fresh air and pure water. It was no uncommon thing to find a parent refusing absolutely to give a child a drink of cold water on the ground that it was harmful and in the matter of fresh air it was also frequently obvious that the window was opened for the Doctors visit and thereafter kept closed. The nursing of the patients was a great difficulty whole families being often ill at the same time., the least ill having to get up to wait upon the others. Too much praise cannot be given to the Matron, District Nurse and Nursing Staff at the Malmesbury Cottage Hospital.They never spared themselves night or day to fight the malady in this unprecendited epidemic utterly regardless of the risks of becoming infected themselves. In the Cottage Hospital 19 cases of Influenza Pneumonia were treated. Of this number six of the cases were admitted from the Rural District.

The number of deaths that occured from influenza in the Borough was16.

Ten of these deaths occured in November.

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

There were two definite waves of influenza during the year. The first wave occurred in the Summer and was not of a serious or severe nature. The second wave started in the Borough about the first week in October and reached its maximum about the third week of November. It was over about the 10th of December although a few cases occured up to the end of the year. The vigorous adult population appeared to be the chosen sufferers though children were frequently attacked. Undoubtedly overcrowding, fatigue, lack of ventilation and insufficient food are the chief causes of spreading the disease. In many houses I regret to say the windows do not open and if they do open they only do so from the bottom. Top ventilation is practically unknown. The public show great ignorance in the matter of fresh air and pure water. It was no uncommon thing to find a parent refusing absolutely to give a child a drink of cold water on the ground that it was harmful and in the matter of fresh air it was also frequently obvious that the window was opened for the Doctors visit and thereafter kept closed. The nursing of the patients was a great difficulty whole families being often ill at the same time, the least ill having to get up to wait upon the others. Too much praise cannot be given to the Matron, District Nurse and Nursing Staff at the Walmesbury Cottage Hospital. They never spared themselves night or day to fight the malady in this unprecedented epidemic utterly regardless of the risks of becoming infected themselves. In the Cottage Hospital 19 cases of Influenza Pneumonia were treated. Of this number six of the cases were admitted from the Rural District.

The number of deaths that occured from influenza in the Borough was 10. Ten of these deaths occured in November.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(1) Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Eleven cases were notified during the year - a high number compared to the average of the preceding 6 years which works out at 3.6. Five of these cases died during the year.

(2) Other forms of Tuberculosis.

No cases were notified.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

There were 35 births registered during the year 1918. 15 were males and 20 females. Two of the females were illigitimate. This gives a birth rate of 14 per 1000 The previous year it was 15.

Deaths.

There were 47 deaths registered. 22 males and 25 females. This gives a death rate of 18.8 per 1000In 1917 it was 16 per 1000.

Infant Mortality.

3 deaths of infants under one year were notified. This gives an average per 1000 of 1.2 taking the population to be 2,500.

I beg to remain Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT.C.PITT.

Deputy M.O.H.

TUBERCULOSIS.

(1) Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Eleven cases were notified during the year - a high number compared to the average of the preceeding 6 years which works out at 3.6.

Five of these cases died during the year.

(2) Other forms of Tuberculosis.

No cases were notified.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.

There were 35 births registered during the year 1918.

15 were males and 20 females. Two of the females were illegitimate.

This gives a birth rate of 14 per 1000 The previous year it was 15.

Death.

There were 47 deaths registered. 22 males and 25 females. This gives a death rate of 18.8 per 1000in 1917 it was 16 per 1000.

Infant Mortality.

3 deaths of infants under one year were notified. This gives an average per 1000 of 1.2 taking the population to be 2,500.

I beg to remain Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT.C.PITT.

Deputy M.O.H.